



CALPEEK

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LOOK FOR WWII IF TORT REFORM INITIATIVES GO ON THE '96 BALLOT. TRIAL LAWYERS TARGETED.

Editor's note: The key word in the above headline is "IF." Here's CALPEEK brief report & analysis...

...On Dec. 29th a new organization called *The Alliance to Revitalize Calif.* (ARC) sent two initiatives to the AG's office for title & summary. One initiative calls for a limit on attorney's **contingency fees** and the other measure would replace CA's current auto insurance law with a **no fault** system. There is a third measure dealing with *strike suits*, aimed at curbing class action lawsuits brought by shareholders against the management of publicly held companies, but it's still in the drafting stages. All three, or even the first 2, tend to make the CA Trial Lawyers Assn. see red, and that's a gross understatement, because these measures would impact the legal profession in a dramatic fashion...

...ARC is co-chaired by two high-tech/Silicon Valley multi-millionaires: Tom Proulx, the guy who invented Quicken, whose firm was sold to Microsoft for \$1.5 billion; and Al Shugart, owner of Seagate Technology. Other key players in ARC are Andrew Tobias, who wrote the pay-at-pump auto insurance plan that never got off the ground; and the consumer group, Voter Revolt (minus Harvey Rosenfield, who is no longer with VR). The key writer of the initiatives is Mike Johnson, while the political consultant for ARC is Bill Zimmerman. Fundraising is being coordinated by Robert Kaplan...

...And make no mistake, *fundraising is the key*. Without the resources, these initiatives won't get off the ground. If the resources are found, it will still be a struggle because the trial lawyers won't sit back and get bashed by what they are bound to see as initiatives aimed at their members' pocketbooks. Bottomline: if these tort reform measures qualify, Calif. could see

another mega-buck initiative war...

...Politically, these two initiatives, should they qualify, would not be good news for Democrats, especially legislative Demos, who rely heavily on CTLA contributions. The two initiatives would drain off resources that might otherwise go into legislative campaigns. We'll keep you posted. Stay tuned...

THE HORCHER RECALL: ANTI-RECALL CAMPAIGN BEGINS TO FIGHT BACK. EYES ON 60th A.D. DEMOS.

Editor's note: While recall proponents are halfway to their goal of collecting 25,000 signatures to force a recall election of maverick Assemblyman Paul Horcher of Diamond Bar, the anti-recall forces just finished hosting a successful \$100,000-plus fundraiser and they claim to be getting a positive response to their first mailer urging voters, especially GOP woman, to support Horcher. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

...The next few weeks will see whether this recall drive, which bolted out of the starting gate on a full head of steam, still has that enthusiasm necessary to gather the required signatures by June 6th. The first month looked great, but sources say they have noticed a change in the past 7-10 days. Perhaps it's that the Speakership War has ended and there's just not that overall sense of urgency that once drove 60th A.D. GOP activists...

...Or perhaps it's the fact that anti-recall forces who support Horcher are fighting back. Horcher supporters have just open an HQ and district voters recently got a personal letter from Mrs. Van Le Horcher. The letter was very emotional and it blasted some of Horcher's former GOP colleagues and talked about the way they had treated him in Sacto. The letter positioned Horcher as a moderate who sided with Gov. Pete Wilson against "right wing extremists." Will the letter convince

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GOP moderates to side with Horcher? Perhaps, but not likely, because Gov. Wilson *favours* the recall...

...Where do 60th A.D. Democrats stand? Most of the 21 Central Cmt. members are opposing the recall, but some are neutral. The key as far as the Demos are concerned is Andrew M. "Andy" Ramirez, a 27-year-old student who ran against Horcher last November and got 32.6% of the vote. Ramirez is taking a wait & see stance. If the recall qualifies, odds are fair-to-good that he'll run --- and if he runs, it may hurt Horcher. Perhaps a better question is what will the Assembly Demo Caucus do if the recall qualifies? Stay with Horcher all the way and not run a candidate? Or oppose the recall, but back a single Demo candidate in hopes of pulling a major upset???

...As for the Republicans, still no word on who may run if the recall qualifies. The same names CALPEEK has run before are still interested, especially if former L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum decides not to run. And there are a number of 60th A.D. Republicans who hope Schabarum won't run. Stay tuned...

SPEAKERSHIP WAR: TRUE LIES OR PULP FICTION???

Editor's note: Now that Phase II of the Speakership War is over, here are a few items (some may call them rumors or just plan gossip) CALPEEK has picked up over the past several weeks...

- **He's A Player** - GOP Assemblyman James Rogan of Glendale has been selected as co-*Speaker Pro Tem* of the Assembly. This confirms what we said several weeks ago when we hinted that Rogan might be on a fast track of GOPers who might like to be Speaker. FYI: Jim Brulte remains as GOP Assembly Leader...

- **He's A Magician** - Insiders are still amazed at the way Willie Brown dazzled his GOP opponents to become Speaker once again. How did he do it? *With magic*. On Dec. 5th he pulled Horcher out of his hat and made the Assembly's chief clerk (Dotson Wilson) disappear. GOPers didn't believe their own eyes and demanded an encore performance. So on Jan. 23th Willie intoned the magic words 3 times --- "Mountjoy, you're going to the Senate." It may not have been legal, but it was fun to watch...

- **Is Mountjoy A Hero?** - New State Sen. Richard

Mountjoy(R-Arcadia) is delighted to be in the upper house of the legislature, despite all his protests. That's the word not only from Demos, but from GOPers too. Had Mountjoy really wanted to stop Willie from being Speaker, all he had to do was resign his senate seat. And trust us, there was lots of pressure from GOP Assembly members for Mountjoy to do just that...

- **The Brains Behind Bernie** - As in Assemblyman Bernie Richter(R-Chico), the man who had the votes to become Speaker. A key operative who was helping Richter was John Feliz, who worked at one time for U.S. Rep. John Doolittle(R-Roseville). Some insiders thought Feliz was still working for Doolittle and rumor is that during the Speakership War Doolittle even got a call from Newt. Turns out Feliz is on the State Senate Rules Cmt. payroll. That means his boss is Bill Lockyer(D). Hummmmm...

- **Rainey Vs. Rogan = Boland** - The mystery about how Assemblywoman Paula Boland(R-Northridge) became chair of the Public Safety Cmt. is no longer a secret. There was a tug-of-war between the cops (who wanted Richard Rainey) and the pro-gun lobby (who wanted James Rogan). GOP Leader Jim Brulte's compromise: Boland...

- **Are Assembly Cmt. Rooms Bugged?** - That's the conclusion that conservative Larry Bowler of Sacto came to before he cut the wires to microphones in an assembly committee room where the GOP Caucus was meeting. "It's either that or someone is blabbing about what goes on in these meetings to Willie," a source quoted Bowler as saying. Guess what, Larry? It ain't the wires. Stay tuned...

35th S.D. SPECIAL UPDATE: 8 CANDIDATES FILE.

In the battle to replace former State Senator Marian Bergeson(R-Newport Beach), eight candidates have filed papers for the Mar. 14th special election. There are 6 Republicans and 2 Demos. The GOPers include former Assemblyman Gil Ferguson; current Assemblymembers Ross Johnson and Doris Allen; Robert Ruper, a doctor from Balboa; Dan Worthington, director of the Costa Mesa Sanitation District; and Long Pham, a Newport Beach businessman/engineer. The Demos include Corona Del Mar businessman Michael D. Palitz and Balboa businesswoman Madelene E. Arakelian, who in 1994 ran unsuccessfully for the 46th C.D. nomination in the Demo primary. Stay tuned...

CARD CLUB MADNESS: MORE ACTIVITY IN CALIF.

Editor's note: Here's an update from last week about card club/casino activities in Calif...

...There's actually more activity than previously reported in last week's CALPEEK. An election is scheduled April 18 in the city of Pomona on a number of different card club proposals. Two different groups want to operate casinos in Pomona: one group goes by the name of Champs, while the other group uses the name Tradewinds Entertainment Center. In this eastern L.A. Co. city of 136,000, the council has been caught in the crossfire between pro & anti card club groups. The council has now placed five(5) items on the ballot: Prop. A would allow two(2) card clubs; Prop. A-1 is advisory as to the location of the first club; Prop. A-2 is advisory as to the location of the second club; Prop. A-3 is advisory as to how the city should use the revenue if voters approve measure A; and Prop. B is known as the Anti-Card Club Casino Act. This battle has been in the courts and is getting fair coverage in the local news media...

...Casino activity in the cities of Los Alamitos and Cerritos is best described as being on the back burner on low heat. Also on the back burner, but on medium heat are the cities of Irwindale and Hawaiian Gardens, both in L.A. Co.; and the city of San Mateo in No. Calif., where the council is said to be split over plans to expand a 2-table card room into a 100-table casino. FYI: in addition to the defeat of a card club proposal in Brisbane, a similar initiative was defeated Nov. 8th in Belmont. But a 100-table card club was approved for the city of Albany at Golden Gate Fields. Stay tuned...

CITIZEN ANGER GROWS IN ORANGE COUNTY.

Editor's note: For those who have been reading and following the unfolding drama about the financial collapse of Orange Co., here's a brief update about *recall activity*...

...There is only 1 active recall underway at the present time. The target is County Sup. Roger Stanton. The recall drive is led by Felix Rocha Jr., a member of the O.C. Board of Education. Rocha has until July 3rd to collect 15,000 valid signatures --- meaning he'll need at least 25,000 names just to be sure. But there is a question of how much support Rocha has --- financial and otherwise...

...A more substantial recall effort is just now getting started by an umbrella group which goes by the name of The Committees of Correspondence. As CALPEEK hit deadline, there was a major meeting of this group to test the recall waters. This committee may not be well funded, but it is highly organized and very motivated --- meaning you've got folks who are willing to walk precincts and work phone banks...

...What is the likelihood of a recall against all 5 supes? At an earlier Cmts. of Correspondence meeting on Jan. 11, about 30% of the 125 who attended wanted to work with the supes to make changes, but 70-80% favored immediate recalls. A non-binding straw vote indicated 40-60% favored recalls of Roger Stanton, Jim Silva and William Steiner, while 90% favored recalls of Board Chair Gaddi Vasquez and Marian Bergeson...

...If the Cmts. of Correspondence decide to take on all 5 supes, they'll have to wait until late March before starting because of the 90-day rule for newly elected or reelected officials. That's another reason why it is unlikely that there will be a coordinated recall effort between Rocha and the Cmts. of Correspondence. FYI: In addition to the Board of Supes, a recall is being organized in Anaheim against Mayor Tom Daly and Councilman Frank Feldhaus. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● **Kemp Drops White House Bid** - As predicted by several CALPEEK sources, former HUD Sec. Jack Kemp decided not to seek the presidency in 1996. So where do Kemp's Calif. supporters go? Good question, with few answers just yet. There is some speculation that Kemp may endorse former TN Gov. Lamar Alexander. FYI: in case you missed the news, U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm of TX won another GOP presidential straw poll at the AZ State Republican Party convention. And add U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar(R-IN) to the list of White House hopefuls...

● **Balanced Budget Vote** - For the record, all GOP House members from Calif. voted FOR the Balanced Budget Amendment, as did Demos Gary Condit, Cal Dooley and Jane Harman. All other CA Demos voted NO. Stay tuned...

CALIF. LEGISLATURE CMT. CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS.

Editor's note: Here is a complete list of the CA State Senate & Assembly Standing Cmt. chairs and vice chairs. For purposes of saving space, we'll only be listing last names and party affiliation. The chair's name will be first, followed by the vice chair's name...

State Senate

Ag & Water - Costa(D), Ayala(D)
Appropriations - Johnston(D), Leslie(R)
Budget & Fiscal Review - Alquist(D), Wright(R)
Business - Boatwright(D), Johannessen(R)
Const. Amendments - Alquist(D), Kelley(R)
Criminal Procedure - Marks(D), Boatwright(D)
Education - Greene(D) (no vice chair from GOP)
Elections - Polanco(D), Craven(R)
Energy, Utilities - Peace(D), Russell(R)
Finance, Investment - Killea(I), Russell(R)
Govt. Organization - Dills(D), Maddy(R)
Health - Watson(D), Haynes(R)
Housing - Campbell(R), Montieth(R)
Industrial Relations - Solis(D), Hurtt(R)
Insurance - Rosenthal(D), Lewis(R)
Judiciary - Calderon(D), Leslie(R)
Legis. Ethics - Craven(R), Greene(D)
Local Govt. - Craven(R), Ayala(D)
Natural Resources - Hayden(D), Thompson(D)
Public Employment - Hughes(D), Rogers(R)
Revenue & Taxation - Thompson(D), Campbell(R)
Rules - Lockyer(D), Beverly(R)
Toxics - O'Connell(D), Wright(R)
Transportation - Kopp(I), Kelley(R)
Veterans Affairs - Rogers(R), Ayala(D)

State Assembly

Agriculture - Harvey(R), Machado(D)
Appropriations - Pringle(R), Valerie Brown(D)
Banking & Finance - Weggeland(R), Bowen(D)
Budget - Vasconcellos(D), Poochigian(R)
Consumer Protection - Speier(D), Morrissey(R)
Education - Alpert(D), Baldwin(R)
Elections - McPherson(R), Gallegos(D)
Environmental Safety - Richter(R), Figueroa(D)
Govt. Organization - Horcher(I), Hoge(R)
Health - Allen(R), Friedman(D)
Higher Educ. - Archie-Hudson(D), Firestone(R)
Housing - Hauser(D), Hawkins(R)

Human Services - Granlund(R), Bates(D)
Insurance - Knowles(R), Tucker(D)
Judiciary - Isenberg(D), Morrow(R)
Labor - Knox(D), House(R)
Local Govt. - Rainey(R), Sweeney(D)
Natural Resources - Sher(D), Olberg(R)
Public Employees - Kaloogian(R), Cannella(D)
Public Safety - Boland(R), Mazzoni(D)
Revenue & Taxation - McDonald(D), Takasugi(R)
Rules - Burton(D), Johnson(R)
Televising Assembly - Woods(R), Bowen(D)
Transportation - Katz(D), Bowler(R)
Utilities & Commerce - Conroy(R), Martinez(D)
Water, Parks - Cortese(D), Frusetta(R)...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Demo campaign consultant Julie King is open for business in CA under the name of New Paths, Inc., 225 Pamela Drive, #221, Mountain View, CA 94040. Phone is (415)964-4230...

- A sad note: Former State Sen. Alvin Weingand died Jan. 18 in Montecito. He was 90 and served in the State Senate from 1961-66. He was also the co-founder of GOO (Get Oil Out), which he organized in 1969 after the Santa Barbara oil spill. R.I.P...

- Hal Dash, president of L.A.-based Cerrell Assoc., has been elected president of the L.A. chpt. of the PRSA...

- A few changes in AG Dan Lungren's DOJ staff. Former press secretary Dave Puglia has been named director of PA & communications, while Steve Telliar becomes press secretary...

- Christine Hanson of MCA, Inc., is the 1995 chair of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers' Assn...

- Campaign consultant Julio Ramirez has been named Asst. COS to LG Gray Davis(D)...

- Laguna Beach attorney Sarah L. Catz has been elected chair of the So. CA Regional Rail Authority, which governs Metrolink, the nation's 8th largest commuter rail service. Riverside Councilman Alex Clifford was elected as SCRRA's vice chair...